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(1662)

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL 659

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 UPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-02 INR-06
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12
AID-20 SAL-02 /RSR-01 /109 W
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R 221055Z OCT 71
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1438
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG
USDEL FRANCE
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 1/26/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKING☐
DECLASSIFIED☑ DELMASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
FOIA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 16923

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

KATHMANDU FOR AMBASSADOR BUNKER

SUBJ: COMMENT ON THE SUPREME COURT VALIDATION OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

REF: SAIGON 16905

1. SUPREME COURT CONSIDERATION OF ITS DECISION VALIDATING THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION (REFTEL) LASTED ALMOST THREE DAYS AMID MOUNTING SPECULATION AS TO THE CAUSE OF THE DELAY. PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR TRAN VAN AN TOLD US OCT 21 THE COURT WAS SPLIT FIVE TO FOUR IN FAVOR OF VALIDATION, AND THIS WAS ALSO THE GENERAL BELIEF IN VIETNAMESE POLITICAL CIRCLES. AN SAID THE MINORITY CONSISTED OF JUSTICES TRAN MINH TIET, NGUYEN VAN SI, NGUYEN AN THONG, AND TRAN VAN LIEM.

2. THE DELAY WAS PROBABLY CAUSED BY AN ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE SOME OF THE MINORITY TO JOIN THE MAJORITY SO THAT THE ELECTION WOULD

(1)

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NOT BE VALIDATED BY AN EMBARRASSINGLY SMALL MARGIN, AND THE ATTEMPT WAS APPARENTLY SUCCESSFUL WITH ONLY ONE JUSTICE FINALLY VOTING FOR INVALIDATION. THE HOLDOUT WAS PROBABLY TRAN MINH TIET, CHIEF JUSTICE FOR THE 1969-1970 TERM, WHO IS KNOWN FOR HIS OPPOSITION VIEWS.
BERGER

DECLASSIFIED

ORIGIN/ACTION

EA.8

RM/R	REP	AF
1		
ARA	EUR 5	FE
NEA	CU	INR 6
E	P	IO
L	FBO	AID .15
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR 5
ARMY 3	CIA 16	NAVY 6
OSD 34	USIA 10	NSA 3
		NSC 6

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

POL 14 VIETS (1663)

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184 NO. | CONFIDENTIAL | TAGS HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO : BANGKOK, CINCPAC FOR POLAD, USDEL FRANCE, DANANG, VIENTIANE

RECEIVED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

NOV 4 4 20 PM 1971

FROM : Amembassy SAIGON

DATE: October 29, 1971

ANALYSIS BRANCH

SUBJECT : Activities of the GVN's Election Information Center in the Presidential Election

REF :

1. SUMMARY: The GVN's Election Information Center organized tours of Saigon and all four military regions for several hundred observers and journalists to observe polling on October 3. Most of the participants were Vietnamese, but a substantial number of foreigners also took part. Among the latter were 26 visiting Americans, some of whom had been invited specially by the GVN about two weeks before election day to revive flagging foreign interest in participation in the EIC's program. END SUMMARY.

2. According to official figures of the GVN's Election Information Center, 333 observers and journalists took part in the EIC's special election-day tours on October 3. This number includes the Vietnamese participants, by far the largest group. Foreign observers and journalists using EIC tour facilities totaled 151, among whom many were diplomats and press representatives living in Saigon. Foreigners who came specially for the election and who registered with the EIC numbered roughly a hundred. In addition, there were about forty journalists from various countries who came to cover the election but who did not go on EIC-sponsored tours. Prominent among the latter was Bill Moyers, former aide of President Johnson and now a private journalist.

Enclosure:
List of American Observers

Action assigned to VN

Action Taken

Date of Action 11/5/71

Action Office Symbol EA/VN

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FORM DS-323 4-62

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In Out

Signature of Officer

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